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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/731,332

Examiner

Stephen L. Blau

Applicant(s)

ROHRER, JOHN W.

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/15/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-7,9-13 and 19-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John W. Rohrer on about 15 June 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

a. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 14-18 are canceled.

b. In claim 5 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the word and numbers -- claim 20 or 21 --.

c. In claim 6 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the word and number -- claim 20 --.

d. In claim 6 line 2 before the word "shaft" the word "the" has been replaced by the word -- a --.

d. In claim 7 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the word and number -- claim 20 --.

e. In claim 7 line 2 before the word "shaft" the word "the" has been replaced by the word -- a --.

- f. In claim 9 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the word and numbers -- claim 20 or 21 --.
- g. In claim 10 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the word and numbers -- claim 20 or 21 --.
- h. In claim 11 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the word and numbers -- claim 20 or 21 --.
- i. In claim 12 line 1 the words and number "Claim 1 where said individual elements" have been replaced by the words and number -- claim 20 wherein each element is --.
- j. In claim 13 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the claim and numbers -- claim 20 or 21 --.
- k. In claim 19 line 1 the word and number "Claim 1" have been replaced by the claim and number -- claim 20 --.
- l. In claim 19 line 2 before the word "top" the word "the" has been replaced by the word --a--.
- m. The following new claims 20-25 have been added:

-- Claim 20. A putter or other golf club grip, for placement at one end of a golf club shaft having a club head at the other end, said grip including a plurality of individual hard or rigid vibration transmitting elements wherein each element is adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft, wherein each element is not adhered to or not in direct contact with any other of said element, some or all of said elements are able to contact

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a golfer's hand or hands, said elements being selectively positioned within said grip at those locations where transmission of vibrations are desirable and omitted at those locations where vibrations are not desirable, wherein the grip area around said elements is comprised of a layer of one or more softer or energy absorbing grip materials adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft which at least partially is able to insulate from a golfer's hands or absorb said undesirable vibrations, and at least one element is located completely away from longitudinal ends of said grip.

Claim 21. A putter or other golf club grip, for placement at one end of a golf club shaft extension wherein said shaft extension is able to substantially increase the length of a golf club shaft, said grip including a plurality of individual hard or rigid vibration transmitting elements wherein each element is adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft extension, wherein each element is not adhered to or not in direct contact with any other of said element, some or all of said elements are able to contact a golfer's hand or hands, said elements being selectively positioned within said grip at those locations where transmission of vibrations are desirable and omitted at those locations where vibrations are not desirable, wherein the grip area around said elements is comprised of a layer of one or more softer or energy absorbing grip materials adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft extension which at least partially is able to insulate from a golfer's hands or absorb said undesirable vibrations, and at least one element is located completely away from longitudinal ends of said grip.

Claim 22. The grip of claim 21 where the elements are circular, square, hexagonal, or other symmetrical shape in a sectional plane parallel to a shaft extension axis or elongated semi-circular or ring shaped in circumferential dimension.

Claim 23. The grip of claim 21 where the elements are of rectangular, oval, or other elongated shape in a sectional plane parallel to a shaft extension axis with the longitudinal axis of said elements parallel to said shaft extension axis or elongated semi-circular or ring shaped in circumferential dimension.

Claim 24. The grip of claim 21 wherein each element is integral with or rigidly attached to said shaft extension prior to casting, molding, or otherwise placing said softer materials around said elements.

Claim 25. The grip of claim 21 with said grip or said shaft extension backweighted within four inches of a top with lead, tungsten, or other high density material in such manner and proportional to increase shaft extension impact vibration to said elements proximate to a golfer's hand position on said grip. --

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art discloses or renders as obvious a plurality of individual hard or rigid vibration

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transmitting elements wherein each element is adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft extension, wherein each element is not adhered to or not in direct contact with any other of said element, some or all of said elements are able to contact a golfer's hand or hands, said elements being selectively positioned within said grip at those locations where transmission of vibrations are desirable and omitted at those locations where vibrations are not desirable, wherein the grip area around said elements is comprised of a layer of one or more softer or energy absorbing grip materials adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft or shaft extension which at least partially is able to insulate from a golfer's hands or absorb said undesirable vibrations, and at least one element is located completely away from longitudinal ends of said grip.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

4. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the submitted drawings are not formal (uniformly thick and well defined lines and numbers). Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the

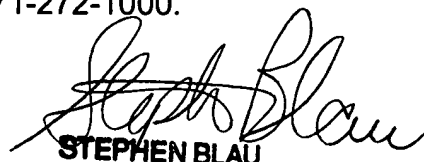
Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen L. Blau whose telephone number is (571) 272-4406. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


STEPHEN BLAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER